

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. Specifically, reference numeral “48” has been changed to –51--; and vertical axis “38” has been changed to –VA--.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks which follow.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11-13, 15, 16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Marandi '308 in view of Nelson '444. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Marandi to utilize the stabilizing plates 30 of Nelson in order to provide a construction that meets the requirement of claim 1 that the plates extend generally vertically in discrete planes non-parallel to one another and which, when extended, intersect one another along a generally vertical line.

By this Amendment, applicants have incorporated the limitations of original dependent claim 3 into independent claim 1 and has also added a limitation requiring the vertical line to lie within the connecting member.

It is noted here that dependent claim 3 has been rejected as unpatentable over Marandi '308 in view of Lovell '128 and Nelson '444. The Examiner relies upon Lovell for its disclosure of first and second plates spaced from one another and extending generally vertically in discrete planes that are nonparallel to one another, concluding that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Marandi to incorporate the four plates Lovell apparently at the ends of the radiating plates 16 of Nelson in order to arrive at the claimed subject matter.

It is respectfully respected that no combination of Marandi, Nelson and Lovell renders obvious the subject matter of independent claim 1 as amended herewith. In this regard, it is noted at the outset that the plates 18 of Lovell are in fact virtually identical to the plates 16 of Nelson and it is not at all apparent why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Lovell to further include the cross-head members 30 of Nelson. In any event, even if that modification

were made, orienting the plates 30 of Nelson perpendicular to the plates 18 of Lovell (as taught by Nelson), the plates 30 when extended would intersect along a vertical line that would lie outside the connecting member, contrary to the requirements of claim 1 as amended herewith. This is plainly evident from a consideration of Figure 4 of Marandi which shows the device in plan and imagining four stabilizers arranged at 90° intervals but generally as configured by Nelson. In such an arrangement, extensions of the plates 30 would intersect at a line that would clearly be outside the bounds of the connecting members 45, 46, 34, 35 of Marandi.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 clearly and patentably distinguishes over the prior art as cited and applied by the Examiner.

It follows that dependent claims 2 and 4-11 also patentably define over the applied prior art.

With respect to independent claim 12, applicants have amended the claim in a manner somewhat similar to independent claim 1. Specifically, independent claim 12 now requires that the vertical line lie within but substantially to one side of the connecting member. Under the proposed modification of Marandi, as postulated by the Examiner, this location of the vertical line cannot possibly result. Accordingly, claim 12 is now in condition for immediate allowance along with dependent claims 14-17 which depend therefrom, noting that dependent claim 13 has been cancelled.

Independent claim 16 has also been amended in a similar manner. Specifically, the claim requires that the vertical line lie within the means carried by the anchor body for engaging the valve. Here again, this arrangement does not result from the proposed combination of prior art.

Dependent claims 19 and 20 are patentable by reason of their dependent upon claim 18.


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Appl. No. 10/669,322
March 8, 2006

Finally, applicants have amended Figure 2 to correct the informality noted by the Examiner on page 2 of the Official Action. Applicants have also amended the specification on page 9 to correct a further reference numeral informality.

The application is now in condition for immediate allowance and early passage to issue is requested. In the event, any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

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